

14th November 1949] [Sri K. Chandramouli]

“ Regarding the correction made by Sri Suryanarayana Rao regarding the rate of interest on loans, no doubt, the Government have allowed a subsidy of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent on the loans to be issued by the Bank in the case of the Rayalseema area.

“ With these few words, I request the House to accept the resolution.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The question is—

‘ This Council recommends to the Provincial Government that they may under sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act, 1934, increase the maximum amount of the guarantee given by them in respect of the debentures issued by the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, up to a total face value of Rs. 550 lakhs exclusive of such debentures as the Bank may from time to time redeem, such debentures being issued for periods not exceeding in any case 25 years from the date of issue and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent per annum ’.”

The motion was then carried.

#### V.—DISCUSSION ON THE DAMAGES BY CYCLONE IN ANDHRA DISTRICTS.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Sir, I move—

*‘ that the situation caused by the recent cyclone in the Andhra districts be considered.’*

In making this motion, I would like to state that as the Hon'ble Members are already aware, the northern Circars and the Ceded districts suffered severe damage and went through extreme hardship as a result of the floods of last September. The public have already been made aware of the damage caused by the floods of September and the relief measures adopted through a Press Note issued by the Government towards the middle of last month. Heavy rains towards the latter half of September 1949 resulted in high floods in the Pennar, Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers and in other minor streams mainly in the districts of Nellore, Guntur, Krishna, Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool. The flood damage was particularly severe in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Nellore, less severe in the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool and negligible in the other districts.

“ It is unfortunate that within less than a month, the cyclone, another calamity of greater severity should have befallen. The districts of Guntur and Krishna, which were badly affected by the floods of September again suffered considerable damage in the cyclone of October. The northern-most districts of the Province, viz., Visakhapatnam and the Godavaries, which remained practically unaffected by the September floods were badly hit by the cyclone of last month. The India Meteorological Department gave warning of

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the impending cyclone on the 26th. On the 27th, through the All-India Radio, Vijayavada and Madras the public were warned of the severe cyclone moving north-westwards. The warning had been communicated to the Collectors of the affected districts who in turn seem to have informed the subordinates and others concerned.

“Crops over a wide area were badly affected. Telegraph and telephone communications went out of order and remained interrupted for several days. Road and rail communications in a number of places were suspended on account of the breaches. There was failure of electricity and water-supply in a number of towns. Large areas of several towns and villages were inundated. Large numbers of dwelling huts either collapsed in the floods or had their roofs blown away in the heavy gale. Even pucca houses did not escape damage. There was damage to irrigation sources through breaches and otherwise. There was loss of livestock in almost all the affected districts and loss of human life has also been reported. Several families were rendered homeless and yet others had their few belongings washed away by the floods.

“A statement setting out in detail the damage caused in each district and the relief measures adopted has been prepared and has been separately supplied to the Hon'ble Members. So I do not propose to take up the time of the House with reading a detailed account of the damage. Yet, in order to facilitate the Hon'ble Members to get an idea of the magnitude of the calamity, I may deal with it in broad outline.

“In Nellore district, in the floods of September, breaches occurred in as many as ten of the important roads and also in the flood banks of the Pennar. Over sixty irrigation tanks were also damaged besides Nellore and Sangham Anicuts. Over 1,500 dwelling houses and huts were washed away and standing crop in about 700 acres of land was damaged. Road communications in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts sustained damage. Over thirty irrigation tanks in Kurnool, the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and its branches were breached. Standing crop in about 20,000 acres and over 9,000 acres in Cuddapah received damage. Over 19,000 houses in Kurnool and Nandyal towns were damaged as also several houses in Bellary district.

“In Guntur, the floods of September caused damage to crops in about 51,000 acres and also to over 6,000 dwelling huts. There were breaches in several roads including the main trunk road and the railway line and it was some days before railway communications were restored. The cyclone of last month caused damage to paddy crop in an area of about 38,000 acres and to other crops over an area of 18,000 acres. There was appreciable loss of livestock during the September floods. In Krishna, the floods washed away or partially damaged several thousand dwelling huts and houses, some of them in towns of Vijayavada and Masulipatnam. Masulipatnam received a rainfall of 20 inches in the course of 24 hours and the town remained flooded for a considerable time. The loss of human lives

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is great in this district, which is 651. In West Godavari district, Kollair lake and some other water sources were in floods and damaged crops in an area of over 9,000 acres in September. The cyclone of October caused loss of human life and livestock mostly in the coastal taluks through a tidal wave. Loss of life through the collapse of buildings and huts was reported from the interior taluks. It is feared that the long-term crop suffered total and widespread damage while damage to short-term crop may be as much as 75 per cent, but in this as in all other similar cases, the actual damage will be known only after some time when a thorough inspection has been made. A tidal wave swept over the coastal taluks in the East Godavari district and all villages within a distance of five miles from the coast are reported to have been submerged in two of the coastal taluks. Fifty-six persons in the district are reported missing or dead as a result of the tidal action or through collapse of houses. Over 4,000 cattle are said to have been lost, most of the loss being in the coastal taluks. Several public buildings were damaged throughout the district including the sub-treasury and police lines at Tuni. Several of the irrigation canals and tanks breached and the number of huts and houses either washed away or partly damaged will, it is feared, be over 40,000. Paddy harvested and kept ready for thrashing was submerged in some places and standing crop in an area of about a lakh and a half acres has probably been damaged. Coconut gardens in the coastal taluks are said to have suffered total loss. Rail and road communications were badly damaged through breaches. In Visakhapatnam district, Sarada, Vamsadhara and Nagavalli rivers were in spate and inundated large areas. There were also breaches on the railway line and on the roads. The contents of the sub-treasury at Anakapalle were partly damaged. Varying degrees of damage to standing crop in several thousands of acres is apprehended. Several hundred huts all over the district were damaged.

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p.m.

" Prompt action was taken by the officials in all the affected districts to provide shelter in public buildings to those rendered homeless and to arrange for the rescue of those in danger, from flood. With the aid of local charity, arrangements for feeding the homeless were made. Clothes were supplied to the affected. Non-officials came forward to assist in the arrangements and local relief committees were formed everywhere. I take this opportunity of conveying to all those persons the Government's appreciation for the very valuable services rendered by them for the relief of the distressed.

" The Government instructed the Members of the Board of Revenue to tour the affected districts and to submit detailed reports of the damage to enable relief to be given without delay. Board Members gave instructions to the Collectors on the spot for the grant of monetary relief to the affected persons and for the free supply of building materials. A sum of Rs. 4 lakhs—one lakh each for Krishna and Gutnur, and half a lakh each of the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Nellore was sanctioned for affording relief to the victims of the September floods. A further sum of Rs. 2,45,000—Rs. 75,000 for Visakhapatnam, Rs. 50,000 for East

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Godavari, and Rs. 40,000 for each of the districts of West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur was sanctioned for the relief of persons affected by the cyclone. In addition, a sum of Rs. 35,000 was sanctioned from the Krishna and Godavari Cyclone Relief Fund. Besides various funds opened locally for relief work by the Relief Committees, His Excellency the Governor of Madras has issued an appeal for contributions to the Provincial Welfare Fund to be earmarked for. Flood and Cyclone Relief'.

"Supplies of rice and other foodgrains were rushed to the affected areas for feeding the homeless. Free rations were given for a few days in all the affected areas to the poor. Relief shops for the supply of essential commodities at fair prices were opened.

"Poor families rendered homeless in Guntur district were supplied in addition to building materials like bamboos, palmyrah trees and leaves, cash grants varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. In Krishna, a cash grant of Rs. 25 to each family rendered homeless has been sanctioned. Wherever possible, free supply of building materials has also been made. Cash grants for the construction of huts and building materials have been given in all the affected areas. Special revenue staff has been engaged wherever necessary so that there may be no delay in the distribution of relief.

"As regards communications, diversion roads were made wherever possible. The work of repairing the damage to road communications was taken on hand without delay. Normal communications have been restored in most places affected by the September floods, and in other places, the work is proceeding apace. Instructions have also been given for according the highest priority to the repair of damaged irrigation sources, including those in proprietary areas. For their speedy restoration, special staff has been sanctioned in Krishna and Nellore districts.

"Instructions have been issued to the Director of Public Health to make arrangements for the deputation of a special staff to the districts affected by the cyclone with the necessary stores and equipment to ensure that there is no outbreak of epidemics.

"For the rehabilitation of the poor families who have lost their cattle and agricultural implements, orders have been issued for the grant of interest-free takkavi loans up to a maximum of Rs. 500, in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Nellore. The question of extending the orders to the districts of Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari will be taken up. Instructions have been given to the subordinate officers to ensure that there is no delay in the disposal of these loan applications.

"Orders will shortly issue that preference should be given to the areas most affected by the floods and the cyclone in supplying water for a second crop.

"Under the Board's Standing Orders, Collectors have powers of sanctioning remission of land revenue in certain circumstances. It is realised that remission on a more liberal scale will be necessary in the districts affected by the floods and cyclone. As soon as detailed proposals are received from the affected areas, the question

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of granting land revenue remission will be taken up. It has been suggested that remission should also be granted to coconut gardens and other garden crops and for lanka lands which suffered damage. This suggestion will be examined. Some other suggestions have been made by various non-officials in communications sent to the Government or to the Press; all these will be duly taken into consideration.

“ As I have already said an appeal for contributions for relief has been made by His Excellency the Governor, who has also contributed Rs. 5,000 towards relief. Several organizations have come forward to help in the collection of funds for relief. A dark cloud is hanging on the Andhra area. The distress and the misery of the poor people can very easily be imagined. The silver lining in the cloud, Sir, is the host of non-officials who have come forward with generous contributions and immediate help and personal service in giving a helping hand to the sufferers.

“ As you are aware, Sir, a part of the affected area is infested with elements who do not hesitate to use even the distress of their fellow-men for their party or political ends. The officers in the area have had to deal with this distressing situation caused by the cyclone in addition to their duties. I am glad to say that the officers of Government of all departments have acted with speed and sympathy and have harnessed the local resources for the relief of the distressed. The co-operation between officers and non-officials has been admirable and one, as it ought to be under a popular Government.

“ This calamity to the rich rice growing area of our Province is going to affect our food position. The peasantry which has slaved hard to grow the crops has sustained loss of not only the fruit of their labour but has been deprived in some cases of their dwellings and cattle. On the speedy rehabilitation of these people, depends greatly our future food position. The Government are doing their best in this direction.

“ It is an area, Sir, which has always come forward generously with monetary help to relieve distress in every part of India at all times. I hope, Sir, that liberal contributions will be made by the public to relieve the suffering of the people and help in their rehabilitation.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The question is—

‘ the situation caused by the recent cyclone in the Andhra districts be considered.’

May I have an idea of how many Members are going to take part in this discussion? We have only half a day today for us. We cannot continue the discussion this afternoon but it will continue to-morrow morning. But practically in this Session we have only two days to do official business namely 17th and 18th. Tomorrow we have got half a day. We are meeting again on the 21st for discussion on the Supplemental Estimates and then we are meeting on the 23rd for doing non-official business. Seventeenth and 18th

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being the only official days, I think we can do some work to-morrow also provided we can finish the discussion on cyclone today. That is, why, I want the number of hon. Members who would like to speak on the statement made by the Hon. Minister. Though I do not want to restrict the number of speakers on such an important matter I would like them to be as brief as possible consistent with the requirements of the case so that we can finish the discussion today."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" The duration may be fixed as three minutes for each Member."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We will see about it later as discussion goes on, and not now."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" May I suggest, Sir, that the statement made by the Hon. the Minister be circulated among the Members so that the relief measures taken by Government in respect of the affected districts may be examined by us in detail? We shall then be in a position to speak clearly on the subject and make our suggestions."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister if his statement does not contain information about the relief granted by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The statement contains information only on a portion of the relief afforded."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If so the Hon. Minister may arrange to have an extract from his speech relating to relief measures supplied to the Members."

\* SRI. C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—" అధ్యక్షా, ఈ మధ్య ము అంధ్ర దేశములో సంభవించిన తుపానువల్ల ప్రజలకు కలిగిన కష్టనష్టముల గురించి గౌరవ నీయులు రెవిన్యూ మంత్రిగారు ప్రసంగించియున్నారు. ఇండ్లకు, పంటలకు కలిగిన నష్టము చాలా పెద్దదే అన్నది. తుపాను బాధితులకు ఏ యే విధముల ప్రభుత్వము వారు సహాయంచేయుచున్నది మంత్రిగారు చెప్పియున్నారు. ఈ విషయమే నేను కొన్ని సలహాలను చేయదలచినాను. ముఖ్యంగా గవర్నమెంటువారు ఇచ్చే సహాయం సరిగా బాధితులకు అందుతున్నదా లేదా అనేది ప్రభుత్వంవారు శ్రద్ధలో గమనించాలి. ఇప్పుడు ఈ సహాయం సరిగా తుపాను బాధితులకు చేరటంలేదని చెప్పకతప్పదు. ఇప్పుటికి రెండులక్షల యాభై వేల రూపాయలు తాత్కాలికంగా తుపాను బాధితులకు సహాయం చేసేసమిత్తం గవర్నమెంటువారు మంజూరు చేసియున్నారు. ఈ మొత్తం చాల తక్కువ. ఒక్కొక్క తాలూకాకే ఇంతమొత్తం చాలదు. అటువంటి పరిస్థితులలో ఈ నాలుగైదు జిల్లాలకుచేర్చి రెండులక్షల యాభై రూపాయలు ఎంతమాత్రము సరిపోదని చెప్పక తప్పదు. తుపానువల్ల ముఖ్యంగా ఇండ్లకు చాల దెబ్బతగిలింది. తాటాకు ఇండ్ల పైకప్పులు పోయినవి. వేదవారు ఉండుటకు నీడలేకుండా ఉన్నారు. కాబట్టి ఈ ప్రదేశాలకు సమీపమందున్న అడవులలోనుంచి వెదురు, తాటికొమ్మలు తెప్పించి ప్రజలకు ఉచితంగా కుంచిపెట్టించే బాధ్యత ప్రభుత్వంవారిపైన్నది. వెంటనే ఇటువంటి సహాయం చేయటానికి గవర్నమెంటువారు పూనుకొనవలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను.

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“ ఈ తుపానువల్ల చాలా హెచ్చుగా వరిపంట పాడైపోయింది. కాబట్టి మనకు ముఖ్య ఆహారమైనటువంటి వరిని కండించుటకు రెండు మూడు నెలల్లో ఫలించే రకపు వరి విత్తనములను రైతులకు వెంటనే ఉచితముగా సరఫరా చేయించాలి. విత్తనాలే కాకుండా పంట సరిగా పండుటకు కావలసిన ఎరువులు కూడా వారికి వెంటనే సప్లయ చేయించాలి. ఈ విధంగా చేసినప్పుడే రైతు తనకు ఎచ్చిన నష్టాన్ని కొంతవరకైనా కూడా తీసుకొనగలడని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

“ తుపాను బాధితులకు సహాయంగా ఇస్తున్న డబ్బు నిజమైన బాధితులకు సరిగా అందటం లేదనే ఆనందానందం చాలామందికి కలుగుచున్నది కాబట్టి ఈ డబ్బును రైతులకు పంచిపెట్టే ఆఫీసర్లతో కొంతమంది non-official ను కూడా చేర్చి కల్లయితే ఈ డబ్బు రైతులకు చేరే అవకాశాలు చాలావుంటాయని మనవిచేస్తున్నాను.

“ తుపానువల్ల ముఖ్యంగా ఆనేకచోట్ల వేలాది ఇండ్లు పోయినాయి. మా జిల్లాలో అగ్ర కావల్లి తాలూకాలో సుమారు అయిదువేల ఇండ్లు పోయాయి. ఈ ఇండ్లు తిరిగి కట్టుకొనుటకుగాను ప్రజలకు ప్రభుత్వంవారు సహాయంచేయడం ఎంతో అవసరం. ఇటు కట్టుకోడానికి నెట్లూరు, గంటూరు, కృష్ణా జిల్లాల్లోనివారికి ప్రభుత్వంవారు ఆప్తులు ఇవ్వడలచినట్లును, విశాఖపట్నం, తూర్పు గోదావరి, పశ్చిమ గోదావరి వారికి ఆప్తు ఇచ్చే విషయం ఆలోచిస్తూన్నామని మంత్రిగారు వారి స్టేటు మెంటులో చెప్పియున్నారు. విశాఖపట్నం, ఉభయ గోదావరి జిల్లాల్లో కూడా పక్షి పోయిన ఇండ్లు కట్టుకొనుటకు ఆప్తులు sanction చేయించవలసిందిగా ప్రభుత్వం వారిని కోరుతున్నాను. గవర్నరు మెంటువారు చేసే సహాయం సరిగా ప్రజలకు అందేటట్టు చేయటకుగాను ఆఫీసర్లను non-officials ను కలిపి వారిద్వారా సహాయము తుపాను బాధితులకు అందేటట్టు చూడవలసిందిగా నేను కోరుచున్నాను.”

\* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—“ Sir, the statement 1 p.m. containing the details of the damage done by the recent cyclone floods in the Visakhapatnam district is not at all up to the mark, and Sir, the estimate is considerably lower. The number of houses affected is very great. Sarvasiddhi suffered the greatest damage. That taluk alone has lost more than fifteen thousand houses. There are three rivers in this taluk and water was deep in many of the villages. The number of villages affected in this taluk was 140 and some of the houses were washed away in the floods and it was with difficulty that the Secretary of the District Congress Committee and the local non-officials reached some of the villages. They had to sail in jaggery pans. After the floods subsided the villagers were not able to identify the places where their houses were situated.”

. SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ I rise on a point of order, Sir. ఇప్పుడు ఈమధ్యన మా ఆంధ్ర జిల్లాల్లో జరిగిన తుపాను భీభత్సం గురించి చర్చించబోతున్నాము. ముఖ్యంగా ప్రభుత్వంవారు తుపాను బాధితులకు ఎటువంటి సహాయము చేస్తున్నారో, ఇకనుండు చేస్తారో తెలుసుకోవలసియుంది. తుపాను వల్ల ప్రజలకు ఎంత నష్టము కలిగిందో ప్రభుత్వంవారికి తెలియజేయడం ఆ జిల్లా ప్రజలయొక్క ప్రతినిధులైన మా విధ్యుక్త ధర్మము. మేము చెప్పే విషయములను అరికించి తగినంత సహాయం చేయడం ప్రభుత్వంవారి విధి. కాబట్టి ఈ చర్చ జరుగుతున్న సందర్భములూ ముఖ్యంగా వ్యవసాయ శాఖ, పబ్లిక్ వర్క్స్ శాఖ, సహకార శాఖ మంత్రులు ఈ సభలో ఉండి ప్రజా

[Sri T. Purushotham] [14th November 1949]

ప్రతినిధులమీద మా ఆధిపత్యములను తెలుసుకొని ప్రజలకు సహాయము చేస్తామని హామీ ఇచ్చినట్లయితే చాలా బాగుంటుంది. కాబట్టి వ్యవసాయ శాఖ, పబ్లిక్ వర్క్స్ శాఖ, గృహ కార శాఖా మాత్రము సభలో ఉండవలెనని నిర్దేశించిన అధ్యక్షుల వారిని కోరుచున్నాను.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If it is possible and convenient other Ministers should be present and suggest some methods by which officials of the other Government departments may help in the matter.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ What all the members say will all be communicated to the several Ministers and everything will be done. All the Ministers coming and staying here is difficult. Other work will certainly suffer. I can, however, assure on behalf of the Government that any suggestion made by hon. Members will be examined. As I have already said, the Deputy Secretary is here taking notes. They will be communicated to concerned Ministers and action taken.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Notes of speeches of Hon. Ministers are also made. It does not mean that they need not be present at all.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ The concerned Ministers are here. You cannot expect all to be here.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ It only shows the interest of the Ministers.”

JANAB K. UPPI :—“ I take very strong objection to this. If they have got any respect for the Members, they must be here.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I do not think all the Ministers are expected to be present because the House is sitting. Then does it mean that every member of the House is here? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Members are not in charge of administration. Whatever that may be, it seems to me that as many of the Ministers as can conveniently be here may be here. At least, it would be better if the Ministers for Finance, Food, Public Works and agriculture are here.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ On this important matter, I would suggest that every Minister present in Madras City should be here including the members.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Unnecessary heat is being imported into the matter. The Revenue Minister is here. The suggestions would certainly be circulated to other Ministers concerned. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture is in Bombay in connexion with an All India conference. There is no necessity for all the Ministers to be present.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not agree. I suppose the Ministers are expected to be here. I am prepared to excuse some

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absence whenever there is public work to do. On an important matter like this, the concerned Ministers may be here and should make an honest attempt to be here as far as possible. The Minister for Public Works and Co-operation may be here."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Ministers who are members of this House may be here."

\* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—" The help should be immediate and should be in the shape of bamboo and palmyra leaves so that they may construct their huts and live there in these days when it is very cold. Sir, many towns in the district have suffered heavy losses. Chicacole town, which is to be the headquarters of the would-be North Visakhapatnam district was under water for nearly two days. The Government were obliged to take away the prisoners from the sub-jail to distant places like Narasanapeta and Chipurapalle. It was with great difficulty that officers could preserve the records."

(At this stage, Janab K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim, crossed the floor of the House to speak to the Premier.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The Member should not cross the President and the speaker as the President should always have the speaker in view."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" This kind of crossing in front of the President is not in order."

\* SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI :—" At Anakapalle, the river Sarada breached and there was water in the tank. In some places, the water in the street was four to six feet deep. Because the breaches occurred during the day time there was no loss of life. But the loss of the poor people who lost their huts and their belongings was very heavy. So also at Yellamanchelle, —another small town—where people were obliged to vacate their huts and take shelter in public offices. Sir, the relief that has to be given to the poor people in the different parts of the districts should be immediate as I have already stated. Sir, the next taluk that suffered much was Palakonda whereabout 150 villages have been affected. In some of these villages, there was a heavy deposit of silt in many lands and unless Government use bulldozers it is not possible to remove the silt and it may not be possible to grow paddy crops on these lands even in the coming year. Human labour cannot cope with this problem. Sir, the other taluks affected are Bobbili, Anakapalle and Bimilipatam. In all these places, the villagers have suffered heavily. There was huge loss of paddy and sugarcane crop and the jute was in many places washed away. Now, Sir, the estimate would run into some crores of rupees when the actual statistics are taken. Though it may not be possible for the Government to give relief to all those people who have lost their paddy or sugarcane or jute, it is the duty of the Government to help the ryots by giving a land revenue remission and by advancing loans

[Sri P. Veerabhadraswami] [14th November 1949]

without interest. Sir, they have lost all their agricultural implements and cattle and also manures and seeds and in the case of small cultivators it is the duty of the Government to supply at least the necessaries without taking the cost and in the case of the big ryots they may be supplied after taking the full cost. Sir, the number of tanks and channels that have breached is large and they should be repaired immediately. In Vizianagaram zamindari alone which has been taken over by the Government under the zamindari abolition, repairs to tanks and channels would come up to three lakhs of rupees according to the estimates prepared by the Estate Manager. Sir, the repairs to all these tanks and channels are to be taken up immediately so that the crop at least during the next season will be satisfactory. Otherwise, the Grow More Food campaign in the district would be greatly retarded. Sir, in the case of Palakonda taluk, water must be supplied in the month of February, free of cost to the ryots, so that they could raise the second crop. Sir, we have to devote our immediate attention to all these problems that have arisen without our foreseeing them and unless all the departments of the Government devote their time and unless the Government can contribute liberally for all these purposes it is not possible to have good crops even during next year. Sir, the people in the districts, both officials and the non-officials, vie with each other in giving relief to the poor people. If committees are constituted in the districts with the Collector as the president and officials and non-officials as members, a large amount of money can be collected. With the help that will be given by the Government, it will be possible to give help to the people who have suffered by the cyclone."

1-15  
p.m.

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, never was this Council called upon to discuss so extensive a misfortune suffered by such large numbers of people as this. It is the duty and responsibility of every member of this House and of the other House and of every public man to take interest in this great misfortune, the extent of which has been explained to us by the Hon. Minister and has also been made known to us by reports in the press."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I request, Sir, that hon. Members coming from the districts affected by the cyclone may be given an opportunity to speak, as the debate will be closed at 1-30 p.m.?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The debate will be continued to-morrow also."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I have risen to speak just now, because I think this is an opportunity when everyone should feel the oneness of the country. Nobody should think that the people who have suffered are the people of Andhra Desa or any other part of the country; they must feel as one, they must feel that some Indians in some part of our country have suffered. Therefore it is the duty and responsibility of not only the leading men of Andhra Desa

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but also of the leading men of every part of the Province to pay attention to this great misfortune. Wherever the misfortune happens, whether it is in any part of the Presidency or in any part of the whole country, we must take up the responsibility of attending to it. We must all feel the oneness of it. It is only in that spirit that I got up to speak before some of my hon. Friends who come from the affected areas."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member was under the impression that the debate would close to-day at 1-30 p.m."

\* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I suggest to the Government that they should have accumulative fund for the relief of distress. I do not want to criticize the Government harshly. But if the Government had the wisdom and the imagination they could have formed a fund of many crores which can be utilised for the relief of distress when such calamities befall us unexpectedly. Year after year, in the budget, the Government must provide some funds and they should go on accumulating and make the same available to meet such distress as this occurring in any part of the Province, whether it is in Andhra Desa or in the southern districts or in the West Coast. I suggest that the Government should take courage and spend a few crores of rupees even out of public revenues and come to the Legislature for sanction. They should spend it immediately in order to relieve the distress, because if we want to collect money from the public it will take a long time before that money is collected. Immediate relief must be given by the Government and Government alone. We have a national Government. Whether it is 1 crore or 2 crores or many crores, the Government must take that money out of public revenues and spend it and relieve distress. The Government must create a fund and provide the necessary amounts in the budget every year and the fund should go on accumulating and be readily available for meeting such unexpected calamities as the present.

" Sir, as I said, everyone must feel the oneness of the country and feel the necessity for relief from this great distress. The Government should constitute a very strong committee, a very influential committee of members from all parts of the Province who will be able to collect money from people who can afford to pay and who can also see that the money is properly spent. This is an opportunity for men to do their best and for officials and non-officials to co-operate. I am told that the Sheriff may call for a meeting, but this will be only for Madras City. That Committee may work in co-operation with the Committee which both these Chambers may constitute. We claim to represent the people and we must take the responsibility of relieving their distress. Not for many years have we had such a great misfortune like the present. Let the Government constitute a Committee of the representatives of the people in the legislature and they will be able to collect as much money from the people as possible.

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Every man who can give even four annas or eight annas must be glad that he has been able to do something to relieve people in this great misfortune. Let us all feel the oneness of the country and let us shown it not merely in speech-making, but in hard, sincere and conscientious work. I suggest to the Hon. the Premier and the Government that we should form a strong Committee."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" More than that, the hon. Member wants the Government to spend something immediately."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Yes, Sir, immediately."

\* SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, I thank the Government for having given the House an opportunity to discuss the havoc caused by the cyclone recently. I also thank the Leader of the Opposition for having made a very useful and constructive suggestion. First of all, I should like to point out that this is not a calamity which has affected only three or four districts. It is a calamity which has affected the whole Province, because the three or four districts which have been directly affected have been feeding the rest of the Province. When the Hon. the Minister for Law toured our districts, I remember he said that they were all under an obligation to the West Godavari district because that district fed them. He said that if a wagon did not move from West Godavari, the people of Malabar will have to starve, and that they were under a deep debt of gratitude to the West Godavari district. So, this is a calamity which affects other districts also, for if we do not supply rice, they will suffer badly. These three or four districts supply about 7 to 10 lakhs of tons of rice to the other districts. So the other districts would lose their food supplies to this extent. Even Chittoor is fed by these districts. Even Rayalseema is fed by these districts. Rice is sent from Tadepalligudem to these parts. Though the calamity affects our districts directly, it is a calamity affecting the whole Province. It is but right that those who have benefited you and served you and fed you should have your sympathy and substantial help when they are in distress. The Hon. the Law Minister, when he toured our districts, said that they were under a deep debt of gratitude to West Godavari. Unless his speech is translated into action, it is worth nothing. He is a powerful member of the Cabinet and I hope he will see to it that the Government do their maximum. He said that people living in his district were under an obligation to the people of these affected parts. I appeal to him to give his material support. I also appeal to all the people in the Province to give all possible help in the shape of money and other things. The Government should first come to the rescue of the people and give a lot of relief. I am glad that the Government have at least now understood the magnitude of the havoc caused by the cyclone. The Hon. the Premier has said that it has been exaggerated. I might point out that this has wounded the feelings of the people of the affected areas. Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, the General Secretary of the Congress and an ex-Minister of the Province, in a

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statement issued from Vijayavada said that the Government of Madras did not seem to understand the amount of damage that has been done by the cyclone. Immediately after that, the Hon. the Premier said that there was exaggeration. I am glad that now at least the Government have come to understand the terrible havoc done by the cyclone, although the actual damage is much more than what they have estimated. After a careful scrutiny, the Government will find that the loss inflicted is much more than what is given in the statement. The Government have not estimated the damage in rupees, annas and pies. If it is estimated in rupees, annas and pies, it will be found that every district has suffered a loss of Rs. 8 or 10 crores. The West Godavari district would have suffered a damage of 8 crores of rupees. Though it is not possible for the Government to give adequate relief, the Government can go a long way in giving relief to the people affected.

“ Sir, the Hon. the Revenue Minister said that all steps had been taken to control the food prices from going up. It is not a fact, Sir. Even after 15 days have elapsed, i.e., even on the 12th of this month when I left the place, people had to go about begging for food. They have no rice and no supplies have been made to them till the 12th. People have had to stand in long queues and with the help of the police, one or two seers per family per day are being distributed. I put a question to the District Collector and asked him whether the Government will be able to feed all the people in the district till the next harvest. He said that he had 6,000 tons of paddy and that he would not only be able to feed them, but feed them sumptuously. But I am surprised that even after 15 days they are not able to supply rice. We have no food and it is because the Government machinery does not move quickly either due to the indifference or the callousness of the Government officials, or whatever it may be. It is a fact that we have plenty of materials. Even now in the black-market, rice is sold at 12 annas or a rupee a seer very secretly. For people of responsible status, it is difficult to get rice in the blackmarket.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ How long will the hon. Member take to finish his speech? ”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—“ I should like to have ten minutes more, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ The hon. Member may continue his speech to-morrow. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m. to-morrow.”

#### VI.—PAPERS PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. *Proposals for the Economic Development of Rayalaseema—Report by Sri P. V. Subba Rao, Development Commissioner.*

2. *Notification appended to G.O. No. 1698, L.A., dated 12th August 1949, regarding the constitution of Gobichettipalayam (Coimbatore) Municipality.*